

**MINUTES OF A JOINT MEETING OF THE
CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION AND TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Cultural Arts Commission convened in a joint session with Torrance City Council at 5:32 p.m. on Tuesday, February 15, 2011 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

II. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Candioly led the Pledge of Allegiance

III. ROLL CALL

Cultural Arts Commission

Present: Commissioners Bunting, Candioly, Korman, Miranda, Rische, Shwarts, and Chairperson Endo-Roberts.

Absent: None.

City Council

Present: Councilmembers Barnett, Brewer, Furey, Numark, Rhilinger, Sutherland, and Mayor Scotto.

Absent: None.

Also present: City Manager Jackson, City Clerk Herbers, Community Services Director Jones, Senior Business Manager Minter, City Treasurer Cortez, Cultural Services Manager Rappoport, Cultural Services Senior Supervisor Bell, Cultural Services Supervisor Ferguson, Deputy City Attorney Sullivan, Torrance Art Museum Curator Presneill, Assistant to City Manager Barthe-Jones, Performing Arts Specialist Inferrera Jordahl, and others.

IV. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Candioly moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. Commissioner Miranda seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 24, 2011

MOTION: Commissioner Candioly moved for the approval of the January 24, 2011 Cultural Arts Commission meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner Miranda seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

VI. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chairperson Endo-Roberts welcomed Councilmembers and introduced Cultural Arts Commissioners.

VII. DISCUSSION OF CULTURAL ARTS FACILITIES, OPERATIONS AND PROGRAMS

VII.A CREATING THE CULTURAL ARTS CENTER AS A DESTINATION

Commissioner Candioly discussed ways to make the Cultural Arts Center a creative event experience prior to major events at the Armstrong Theatre, Nakano Theatre, and Toyota Meeting Hall. He raised the possibility of providing live music, tables with umbrellas, additional seating, displaying/selling artwork, food services, and presentation of upcoming events in the courtyard. He suggested linking the Cultural Arts Center with Torrance Transit that could provide bus service to pick people up from designated locations.

Commissioner Korman stressed the importance of having a marquis announcing upcoming events at the Cultural Arts Center, noting that there are Torrance residents who do not even know there is a Center.

Mayor Scotto announced future plans to install a changeable neon sign at Sepulveda Boulevard and Madrona Avenue.

VII.B REPORT ON UPCOMING ARTS EDUCATION WORKSHOP

Commissioner Shwartz reported that the Division has applied for and successfully received a grant for the past five years for "Stories in Art" offered through Supervisor Don Knabe's Arts Education Partnership Program. She described "Stories in Art," a collaboration with Torrance Public Library, that includes storytelling, a Torrance Art Museum visit, and art workshop.

She shared information about an April 9, 2011 workshop to introduce "Arts For All," a L.A. County regional blueprint for arts education. The program was initiated by the L.A. Arts Commission and is a strategic plan to restore arts education to L.A. County school districts. "Arts for All" provides a comprehensive series of policy changes, educational initiatives, and standards for visual and performing arts. She noted that to date Torrance Unified School District (TUSD) has not expressed an interest in this program but hopes that interested teachers will attend and begin to integrate some of the concepts and best practices into their lesson plans.

Mayor Scotto recommended providing information about the workshop to private school teachers and, in response to his inquiry, Manager Rappoport stated that they are promoting the workshop through the PTA Council and Cultural Arts Center instructors, adding that she also plans to contact TUSD teachers directly with the assistance of Commissioner Shwartz.

VII.C WILSON PARK AMPHITHEATRE UPDATE

Commissioner Miranda provided background on plans to renovate the gazebo at

Wilson Park. He stated that the goal is to enhance the existing structure with available funds so that it can be utilized by more performing arts groups. He stated that the City awarded a contract to Land Concern in August 2010 and that the firm reviewed existing files and met with stakeholders in December 2010. He advised that they are waiting for a list of prioritized improvements, designs, costs, and timelines.

He distributed and reviewed existing conditions and plans for Phase I: Remove half of columns, introduce pavers over the existing stage and to expand the performance zone to accommodate wider range and type of performances, remove trees that encroach on view corridors and stage, and pursue solutions for semi-permanent backdrops/screening. He noted the conceptual rendering for Phase II on the final page.

Manager Rappoport noted that they hope to be able to complete Phase I goals with the \$80,000 that is left from the original budget. She advised that Phase II would be considered in the future if funding becomes available and raised the possibility of a potential for rental.

Cultural Services Director Jones added that the architect is trying to find a way to make the space more flexible with the use of temporary walls and that the general concept is built around the footprint required by Torrance Symphony.

Mayor Scotto stated it is important to construct a facility in a way that can be enlarged in the future and that many residents have asked for locations such as this. He suggested that the Cultural Arts Commission meet with the Parks and Recreation Commission to discuss planting new trees now.

Councilmember Rhilinger emphasized the importance of being able to build onto Phase I improvements and suggested asking the designer for an estimate for Phase II now.

Referring to Item VII.A, Mayor Scotto voiced support for enhancements in the courtyard before performances but pointed out the number of people and work that would be required twenty to fifty times a year. He raised the possibility of charging for pre-shows and looking at enhancing the lighting in the courtyard.

Councilmember Furey indicated that restaurants or gourmet trucks might be interested in hosting the pre-events.

City Manager Jackson pointed out that General Services would need to do an evaluation of L.A. County Health requirements for food services.

Commissioner Rische noted that Torrance Theatre Company offered discounts to local restaurants at performances of "Over the River and Through the Woods."

Councilmember Numark recommended having private vendors handle all pre-show enhancements as the City's primary goal is to draw in more people and Mayor Scotto suggested that staff start looking for potential vendors.

Referring to Item VII.B, Mayor Scotto suggested placing an item on the next Citizen Development and Enrichment Committee meeting agenda with TUSD and having Commissioner Shwartz discuss the workshop and arts education curriculum.

Councilmember Furey encouraged Councilmembers to put pressure on the TUSD administration to buy into the concept.

VIII. ORALS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Candioly stated that he enjoyed the Colin Hay concert.

Commissioner Korman stated that the February 12, 2011 Torrance Symphony FUNdraiser with the "Wonderelles" as well as the San Francisco Opera Company's film series were very successful. She also noted that she had the pleasure of hearing Torrance Art Museum Curator Presneill speak at the Arts Council luncheon.

Commissioner Miranda stated that he enjoyed Luis Miguel at Universal Amphitheatre and is looking forward to visiting New York City.

Commissioner Rische stated that she enjoyed "Over the River and Through the Woods" and the "Wonderelles."

Commissioner Bunting stated that she enjoyed visiting Culver City commercial galleries and attending the Art L.A. Contemporary Fair.

Councilmember Sutherland stated that he enjoyed "Over the River and Through the Woods" and is looking forward to seeing "Phantom of the Opera" in New York City.

Chairperson Endo-Roberts expressed her appreciation to staff members and City Councilmembers.

Mayor Scotto stated that he was encouraged by all the things going on at the Cultural Arts Center but noted that it is underutilized compared to what it could be. He voiced support for exploring ways to enhance its entertainment value and stated that in the near future the City would spend funds to dress it up to make it a nicer event.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

At 6:30 p.m., City Council recessed to City Council Chambers for the regular meeting at 7:00 p.m.

MOTION: At 6:31 p.m., Commissioner Miranda moved to adjourn the meeting to March 21, 2011 at the West Annex Meeting Room, at 7:00 p.m.

Approved as Submitted March 21, 2011 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
